



**Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services
Articles of Interest
27 April 2018**

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. Where are all the Coast Guard's mid-career women going?

(11 Apr) Federal News Radio, By Scott Maucione

Outgoing Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft says one of the service's biggest personnel concerns is the loss of women who have served a decade in the force.

2. Military Leaders Highlight Efforts, Challenges in Recruiting, Retention

(13 Apr) DoD News, Defense Media Activity, By Lisa Ferdinando

Senior military personnel officers today described to a House panel efforts to recruit and retain the best talent, while outlining challenges the military faces due to the competitive civilian job market. Only one in four 17 to 24 year olds is eligible to join. Propensity to serve is declining and each of the services as well as the civilian sector are vying for the same limited talent pool.

3. Will new retirement system entice more service members to leave early? Officials are watching

(13 Apr) Military Times, By Karen Jowers

Service personnel chiefs told lawmakers Friday they are watching how the new Blended Retirement System affects retention.

4. Lawmakers Question Why Marines Haven't Attracted More Women

(13 Apr) Military.com, By Matthew Cox

Female lawmakers pressed U.S. Military personnel officials today to explain what they are doing to attract more women at a time when the pool of individuals eligible for service continues to shrink. "It appears that the Marines have really lagged behind all the other services in terms of incorporating women, both in terms of training...and just the general sense that women don't belong in the Marines," Rep. Jackie Speier said directing her comments at Marine Lt. Gen. Michael Rocco, deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

5. Judge: Trump's ban on transgender troops on hold until trial

(16 Apr) The Associated Press, By Gene Johnson

A U.S. judge in Seattle has ordered President Donald Trump not to ban transgender troops from serving in the military, saying it's unclear whether recent changes to his administration's policy are constitutional.

6. Coast Guard won't ban transgender members without direct policy barring them

(17 Apr) The Hill, By Ellen Mitchell

The head of the U.S. Coast Guard on Tuesday said it will continue allowing transgender members to serve in the military branch until a policy officially bans transgender troops.

7. Air Force should make active-reserve switches easier, Wilson says

(20 Apr) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

To retain talented airmen, the Air Force should make it easier for them to move from active duty to the reserves and back again, Secretary Heather Wilson said Friday.

8. **[Army lowers 2017 recruiting goal; more soldiers staying on](#)**
(22 Apr) *The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor*
The U.S. Army will not meet its mission to recruit 80,000 active duty soldiers this year and has officially lowered that goal. But Army leaders said the service has been able to encourage more experienced service members to stay on the job to satisfy a growing demand for troops.
9. **[Editorial: Military kids should not be penalized for seeking behavioral health help](#)**
(23 Apr) *Military Times, By Military Times Editors*
For years, the Army and the Air Force have been quietly merging the childhood medical records of former military dependents with the medical records of new military recruits.
10. **[Thousands of girls joining boys as Cub Scouts](#)**
(23 Apr) *The Associated Press, By Holly Ramer*
About two-thirds of councils nationwide signed up, bringing roughly 3,000 girls into the Cub Scouts so far, she said. Under the new plan, Cub Scout dens — the smallest unit — will be single-gender, either all boys or all girls. The larger Cub Scout packs will have the option to remain single-gender or not.
11. **[Retention Becomes Key to Army Growth](#)**
(24 Apr) *AUSA Article*
The revised recruiting goal was announced just days after the chief of Army personnel told a House Armed Services Committee panel that finding service-age youth interested in and qualified for military service was not easy.
12. **[Commentary: Protecting the privacy of military children's medical records](#)**
(25 Apr) *Military Times, By Ret. Army Col. Stephen J. Cozza, M.D.; Ret. Army Col. Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, M.D.; Ret. Capt. Navy Robert L. Koffman, M.D.; and the Committee on Military and Veterans, Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry*
April, the month of the military child, is a time for all Americans to recognize military children's strengths, contributions and challenges they face related to their parents' military service. Yet, recently published articles in Military Times tell of U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force policies that could place military children's health and future career aspirations in jeopardy.
- ## EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION
13. **[Navy's submarine service wants more women](#)**
(18 Apr) *USNI News, By Ben Warner*
The Navy's silent service is making some noise about wanting more female enlisted sailors to earn their dolphins and serve aboard submarines, according to the chief of naval personnel.
14. **[No reports of transgender troops affecting unit cohesion, Marine Corps and Navy leaders say](#)**
(19 Apr) *Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*
The heads of the Navy and Marine Corps told lawmakers Thursday that they have received no reports of transgender devil dogs or sailors impacting unit cohesion in the ranks.
15. **[SUBLANT's Facebook claps back at the trolls](#)**
(19 Apr) *Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz*
Last week on Facebook, a Navy command clapped back at commenters bemoaning increased opportunities for women on submarines.
16. **[All 4 service chiefs on record: No harm to units from transgender service](#)**
(24 Apr) *Military Times, By Tara Copp*
Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein told Congress Tuesday he was not aware of any negative effects from transgender personnel serving, joining all three other service chiefs in a rare public split with President Donald Trump over the issue.
17. **[Mattis defends new transgender policy, drawing senator's ire](#)**
(26 Apr) *Stars and Stripes, By Corey Dickstein*
Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told lawmakers Thursday that none of the four military services' top generals nor the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were consulted before his predecessor permitted transgender people to serve in the armed forces two years ago.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

18. Navy sailor court-martialed following assault plea

(14 Apr) The Associated Press

A U.S. Navy sailor who supported SEAL Team 6 for more than a decade has been charged by the military with multiple counts of sexual assault, lying to an NCIS agent and assault consummated by battery for allegedly having sex with a fellow sailor while she was passed out in his spare bedroom.

19. Marine Corps general fired for calling sexual harassment claims "fake news"

(16 Apr) USA Today, By Tom Vanden Brook

The Marine Corps on Monday fired the general in charge of its sexual assault prevention and response efforts for remarks he made at a public meeting disparaging claims of sexual harassment at his command as "fake news."

20. Second mistrial in ex-Navy commander's attempted rape trial

(17 Apr) The Associated Press

A deadlocked jury led to a second mistrial Monday in the case of a former Navy commander charged with the attempted rape of a junior officer in San Diego. The former Navy commander was charged with assaulting a Navy lieutenant in 2016. She worked under his command in a helicopter squadron in Guam.

21. Woman, 71, arrested after hitting pregnant soldier in racially charged incident at Georgia restaurant

(17 Apr) Army Times, By Victoria Leoni

A 71-year-old woman was arrested Saturday for lunging at and hitting a pregnant soldier at a Cheddar's restaurant in Macon, Georgia.

22. Rape charges dropped against former MTI in Lackland scandal

(18 Apr) Air Force Times, By Stephen Losey

The Air Force on Monday dropped rape charges against a former military training instructor, whose convictions were overturned last year. In January 2015, Silva was convicted of raping a basic trainee on two occasions in 1995, and raping his ex-wife, a senior airman, in 2007. He was sentenced to 20 years of confinement, a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and a reduction to E-1.

23. 'Bad Santa' case could have been handled better, Navy's top officer says

(19 Apr) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

The Navy's top officer said Thursday that he regrets the message he sent to the fleet when he failed to promptly remove one of his spokesmen who was accused of sexual impropriety at a Navy Christmas party but allowed to stay on in the high-level position for months.

24. Carrier John C. Stennis throws sexual assault awareness rodeo

(23 Apr) Navy Times, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

The carrier John C. Stennis hosted a "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Rodeo" last week, according to a Navy release.

25. Military sex assault reports jump 10 percent

(25 Apr) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor

U.S. officials say reports of sexual assaults across the military jumped by nearly 10 percent in 2017, a year that saw a massive online nude-photo sharing scandal rock the services, triggering greater awareness of sexual harassment and other similar complaints.

26. Camp Lejeune daycare employee under investigation

(25 Apr) JD News, By Mike McHugh

A Camp Lejeune daycare worker has been reassigned after allegations were made that she threw an 11-month-old boy four feet, causing him to land on his head and upper-body.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

27. [**The Female Trailblazers of the Coast Guard**](#)

(13 Apr) *The Maritime Executive*, By William H. Thiesen

In December 1941, the United States was plunged into the conflict. A year later, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a law creating the Women's Reserve branch of the Coast Guard and the service began recruiting women for the SPARs - an acronym for the Coast Guard's motto, Semper Paratus—"Always Ready."

28. [**Face of Defense: Female Advisor Breaks Through Barriers in Afghanistan**](#)

(16 Apr) *2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division*, By Army Staff Sgt. Neysa Canfield

Army Master Sgt. Janet Bretado of the California National Guard is one of two female advisors from the 40th Infantry Division serving as part of Train, Advise and Assist Command South.

29. [**Pilot of Southwest flight with blown engine was among Navy's first female fighter pilots**](#)

(18 Apr) *The Associated Press*, By Alexandra Villareal and Terry Wallace

A Southwest Airlines pilot who made an emergency landing Tuesday after the jet apparently blew an engine, got hit by shrapnel and lost a window, is being praised for her "nerves of steel" in helping to prevent a far worse tragedy after the catastrophe killed one passenger and left seven others hurt.

30. [**Southwest pilot who landed crippled plane was a Navy aviation pioneer**](#)

(18 Apr) *Navy Times*, By Geoff Ziezulewicz

A Southwest Airlines pilot who coolly landed a crippled plane yesterday after it lost an engine was a Navy aviation trailblazer in her past life.

31. [**Veteran lawmaker wants Congress to honor Southwest pilot as a civilian and military hero**](#)

(19 Apr) *Military Times*, By Leo Shane III

One of Congress' military aviation veterans is pushing for her colleagues to honor a fellow female veteran for her actions to land a passenger plane whose engine exploded mid-flight this week.

32. [**From Sapper to Ranger: Female Graduate Breaks New Boundaries**](#)

(24 Apr) *Military.com*, By Alun Thomas

Long days of little food and sleep affected every waking moment for Capt. Natalie Mallue, as she neared the end of Third Phase at Ranger School, deep in the murky waters and terrain of Florida's swampy Camp Rudder.

33. [**Face of Defense: Top Female Cadet Looks Forward to Serving in Infantry**](#)

(26 Apr) *Army News Service*, By Sean Kimmons

As a young girl, U.S. Military Academy Cadet Taylor England daydreamed about being in the infantry long before the Army opened all of its combat arms positions to women. She wanted to lead troops in combat, shoot weapons and execute missions -- aspirations similar to those of her male counterparts.

34. [**From Servant to Midshipman: Future Marine Officer Shaped by Running**](#)

(24 Apr) *Military.com*, By Jonathan Trejo

Agana is studying political science and plans to become an intelligence officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After the military, she wants to build a school in Bolga someday and help children achieve higher educations.

WOMEN VETERANS

35. [**Female veteran's lament becomes powerful song with help from SongwritingWith:Soldiers project**](#)

(13 Apr) *Democrat & Chronicle*, By Gary Craig

Meghan Counihan's daughter was 6 months old when Counihan was deployed to Afghanistan. The mother of three, Counihan found herself riven by a tug-of-war of emotions, beckoned by call and duty: one for country, the other of motherhood.

36. [**Statue of female sailor at Blue Jacket Park honors Navy legacy, women who served at sea**](#)

(14 Apr) *Orlando Sentinel*, By Stephen Hudak

A bronze statue of a woman in a Navy uniform was unveiled at Blue Jacket Park in Baldwin Park, a community with more than 4,600 homes that sprouted after the 1,900-acre Naval Training Center was shuttered in the 1990s. The statue, named the Blue

Jacket Recruit — a Navy term for an enlisted sailor, honors the 188,000 female recruits whose graduation from the nation's first coed boot camp proved they were not only as ready as men but also willing and able to serve their country.

37. [**Facing unique mental health challenges, female veterans are killing themselves more often**](#)

(24 Apr) NCPR, By Jay Price

Female veterans are nearly 2 1/2 times more likely than their civilian counterparts to kill themselves. Advocates say women's mental health challenges are different from those of men.